

By: Yukinori MATSUMOTO et al.
Divisional of Serial No.: 09/254,127

Docket No. 990191B

value of pixels in each region of said object image and a mean value of pixels in a region of said background image corresponding to said region of said object image, and

a threshold value processing step of comparing an absolute value of difference obtained by said difference processing step with a predetermined value to extract a region having said difference absolute value of difference of at least said predetermined value as the object portion.

63. (Amended) The medium storing the object extraction program according to claim 57, wherein said information of each pixel in said object image is depth information.

REMARKS

Claims 45-49, 52-56, 59, 60, 62 and 63 have been amended, while claims 1-42 and 82-94, have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The specification has been amended in order to correct informalities therein.

A marked-up version showing the changes to the specification made by the present amendment is attached hereto as "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made".

If for any reason, the Examiner has any questions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for a telephone conference in order to help expedite the disposition of this application.

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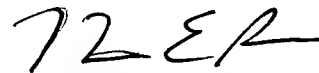
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A prompt and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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Atty. Docket No. 990191B

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Attachment: Version with markings to show changes made

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
Divisional of Serial No. 09/254,127

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 27, starting at line 23, with the following:

By the difference processing between object images [~~A1-Aa~~] A1-An and a background image, silhouette images B1-Bn with only the cut out of the object of interest are generated.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-42 and 82-94, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 45-49, 52-56, 59, 60, 62 and 63 as follows:

45. (Amended) The object extraction apparatus according to claim 43 [~~or 44~~], wherein said extraction means identifies and extracts the object portion in said object image by a threshold process for information of each said pixel consolidated each for said region.

46. (Amended) The object extraction apparatus according to claim 43[~~45~~], wherein said information of each pixel in said object image is difference information obtained by a difference process between a background image obtained by shooting only a background of said object of interest and said object image.

47. (Amended) The object extraction apparatus according to claim 43[=45], wherein said extraction means comprises

difference processing means for carrying out a difference process between a background image obtained by shooting only a background of said object of interest and said object image;

mean value obtaining means for obtaining a mean value of absolute values of difference obtained by said difference process in said each region, and

threshold value processing means for comparing said mean value of absolute values of difference in said region with a predetermined value to extract a region having said mean value of at least said predetermined value as the object portion.

48. (Amended) The object extraction apparatus according to claim 43[=45], wherein said extraction means comprises

mean value calculating means for calculating a mean value of pixels in each region of said object image,

difference processing means for carrying out a difference process between a mean value of pixels in each region of said object image and a mean value of pixels in a region of said background image corresponding to said region of said object image, and

threshold value processing means for comparing an absolute value of difference obtained by said difference processing means with a predetermined value to extract a region having said absolute value of difference of at least said predetermined value as the object portion.

49. (Amended) The object extraction apparatus according to claim 43[~~45~~], wherein said information of each pixel in said object image is depth information.

52. (Amended) The object extraction method according to claim 50 [~~or 51~~], wherein said extraction step identifies and extracts the object portion in said object image by a threshold process for information of each said pixel consolidated each for said region.

53. (Amended) The object extraction method according to claim 50[~~52~~], wherein said information of said each pixel in said object image is difference information obtained by a difference process between a background image obtained by shooting only a background of said object of interest and said object image.

54. (Amended) The object extraction method according to claim 50[~~52~~], wherein said extraction step comprises

a difference processing step of carrying out a difference process between a background image obtained by shooting only a background of said object of interest and said object image,

a mean value obtaining step of obtaining a mean value of absolute values of difference obtained by said difference process in said each region, and

a threshold value processing step of comparing said mean value of absolute values of difference in said region with a predetermined value to extract a region having said mean value of at least said predetermined value as the object portion.

55. (Amended) The object extraction method according to claim 50[=52], wherein said extraction step comprises

- a mean value calculating step of calculating a mean value of pixels in each region of said object image,
- a difference processing step of carrying out a difference process between a mean value of pixels in each region of said object image and a mean value of pixels in a region of said background image corresponding to said region of said object image, and
- a threshold value processing step of comparing an absolute value of difference obtained by said difference processing with a predetermined value to extract a region having said absolute value of difference of at least said predetermined value as the object portion.

56. (Amended) The object extraction method according to claim 50[=52], wherein said information of each pixel in said object image is depth information.

59. (Amended) The medium storing the object extraction program according to claim 57 [or 58], wherein said extraction step identifies and extracts the object portion in said object image by a threshold value process for information of said each pixel consolidated each for said region.

60. (Amended) The medium storing the object extraction program according to claim 57[=59], wherein said information of each pixel in said object image is difference information obtained by a difference process between a background image obtained by shooting only a background of said object of interest and said object image.

62. (Amended) The medium storing the object extraction program according to claim 57[=59], wherein said extraction step comprises

- a mean value calculating step of calculating a mean value of pixels in each region of said object image,
- a difference processing step of carrying out a difference process between a mean value of pixels in each region of said object image and a mean value of pixels in a region of said background image corresponding to said region of said object image, and
- a threshold value processing step of comparing an absolute value of difference obtained by said difference processing step with a predetermined value to extract a region having said difference absolute value of difference of at least said predetermined value as the object portion.

63. (Amended) The medium storing the object extraction program according to claim 57[=59], wherein said information of each pixel in said object image is depth information.